

The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

The 2014 Hamfest

The 2014 Charlotte Hamfest is over. There were, as always, plenty of goodies to look at, and to take home to your shack. The CDXA booth got lots of traffic, as did the Card Checking booth next to it. Ken, K4DXA, won the CDXA raffle prize, a Nexus 7 tablet computer, and he seems pretty happy about it.



Once again, the forums were well worth the price of admission to the hamfest. There were multiple highlights involving CDXAers. During the ARRL forum, Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, the ARRL Roanoke Division Director, presented Roger Burt, N4ZC, with the 2013 Roanoke Division Service Award. The picture below shows Roger receiving the award from Dennis, and Roanoke Vice Di-

N4QT	Hal Bouton	President
W4GRW	Bill Fisher	Vice-Pres.
W3ZL	Cliff Wagoner	Sec.-Treas.
K4MD	Joe Simpkins	Cluster Mgr.
W3OA	Dick Williams	Contest Mgr.
W3GQ	Paul Sturpe	W4 QSL Bureau Manager
WB4BXW	Wayne Setzer	Webmaster
NV4A	John Forbus	Editor



rector Jim Boehner, N2ZZ. Bill, W4GRW, did his usual magic and created a video of the presentation and Roger's remarks. Have a look at [Roger's Service Award](#) Presentation. As usual, Roger was gracious, and gregarious in his acceptance speech.

We were also fortunate to have Kay Craigie, the ARRL President, pictured here, give us a look back at 100 years of ARRL history, and a glimpse into what ARRL

is doing to move toward the future. Kay, who lives in Blacksburg, VA with her husband Carter, is an avid DXer and contesteer.

Kay talked about a couple of the major 100th Anniversary activities, in-



(Continued on page 2)

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com
W4DXA (AR Cluster via Telnet)	w4dxa.no-ip.com
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Skyland Family Restaurant, 4544 South Boulevard, Charlotte, NC

(Continued from page 1)

cluding the W1AW Centennial QSO Party, which is taking place all year long, with W1AW/portable stations operating from all the call areas. *(Some of you may have worked W1AW/4 the first week in January, when North Carolina kicked things off. CDXAers Lou, N2TU, Dennis, K7BV, Paul, W3GQ, Dick, W3OA, and Carl, N4AA participated.)*

Kay also talked about the ARRL National Centennial Convention 2014, which will be held from Thursday, July 17th to Saturday, July 19th, in Hartford, CT. There will be lots of activities including training sessions in public service, technology, and radiosport; a luncheon with guest speaker, an international guest reception, Contest University and DX University seminars, and an exhibit hall featuring ARRL program representatives, amateur radio manufacturers, equipment sellers, and indoor flea market; along with many forums and presentations. The ARRL Centennial Banquet will be held Friday night, as will the ARRL Wouff Hong Ceremony. Kay assures us that, while Hartford might not make the top of our “must see” vacation spots, it’s a beautiful area, with plenty to do and see.

The ARRL forum also included a presentation by fellow CDXAer and the new North Carolina Section Manager



The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
Copyright 2014

Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to “The Amateur’s Code” as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Yearly dues are \$25.00. A second licensed Amateur family member living in the same household can join for \$5.00 for a total family price of \$30.00 per year. The total price for 3 or more licensed family members living in the same household is only \$35.00 per year. All family members enjoy full member status. Dues are payable annually in December by check or through [the CDXA website](http://www.cdxa.org), to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: jcw53@cornell.edu.

Karl Bowman, W4CHX. Karl thanked Bill Morine, N2COP, for his many years of service as NC Section Manager. Bill says he’s beginning to absorb the magnitude of the job, in a state with over 19,000 hams including 4200 ARRL members, and 69 ARRL affiliated clubs. Karl adds that there are also lots of great volunteers to help out.

In case anyone was wondering where CDXAer and SC Section Manager Marc Tarplee, N4UFP, was, he was working the ARRL Booth during the forum.

The forums then turned to CDXA’s favorite topic: DX. CDXA president Hal, N4QT, acted as host.

The first presentation was by CDXA member Bill Tippet, W4ZC, who talked about getting DXCC as a Novice in



1958. Here’s Bill showing just a few of the QSL cards that helped him reach the goal of becoming the first, and one of the very few, Novices to reach DXCC.

Lou, N2TU, gave us a great in-depth look at the K9W Wake Commemorative DXpedition, as well as some background on Wake itself. CDXA members Joe, AA4NN, and Dick, W3OA, who were also on the team, were present to jump in as needed. A highlight, illustrating the hardships the team endured, was a picture of the ice cream machine in the mess hall. Obviously, the team didn’t spend too much time eating ice cream, since there were over 100,000 Q’s made, and K9W was named the 2013 DXpedition of the year by CQ World.



Here’s Lou in action, just getting warmed up.

(Continued from page 2)

Bob Allphin, K4UEE, presented the last forum, on the recently completed FT5ZM DXpedition to Amsterdam Island. Since transportation to and from the island was by an approximately nine day boat ride, the complete trip took the team away from home for six weeks. The results were certainly worth it from the standpoint of those who made any of the almost 165,000 Q's with FT5ZM.



As do most DXpeditions, FT5ZM had two operating sites. One of the slight problems Bob says they found out about after the team got there was that they couldn't travel between the sites at night. It seems that the seals inhabiting the island aren't always too friendly, and a seal bite can cause a serious infection ...hence the curfew. They worked around the problem by shuffling the operating schedules.

Bob will be releasing a video of the DXpedition to give us a more in-depth look at the operation and the island.

To close the DX forums, CDXA President Hal presented Bob with a CDXA tee shirt, and made him an honorary CDXA member. Here's Bob showing off his new shirt.



2014 Hamfest Banquet

As always, the highlight of the Hamfest weekend for CDXA was our annual Hamfest Banquet, again held on the Friday night of the big weekend. We returned this year to the Afton Tavern, only a few miles from the Hamfest site.



We had a full room, and everyone seemed to agree that dinner was good and the dessert was excellent, as was the conversation. Speaking of dessert, check out the picture of Afton Tavern's signature dessert, its Skillet Cake. What a way to top off dinner!

We had a large contingent from ARRL, including President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and her husband Carter, N3AO; Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, the ARRL Roanoke Division Director; Roanoke Vice Director Jim Boehner, N2ZZ; SC Section Manager Marc Tarplee, N4UFP; and our new NC Section Manager, Karl Bowman, W4CHX.



Here's the ARRL crew, minus Karl, who had to show up late because he had Booth duty. L/R, it's N2ZZ, N4UFP, N3KN, and N3AO.

The big finale of the Banquet was the drawing for a Yaesu FT DX 1200, donated by Yaesu through Dennis, K7BV. Kay Craigie had the honor of pulling the winning ticket out of the bowl, and Wayne Helms, N4HWH, had the honor of being the lucky winning ticket holder.

Photos on the next page show the prize drawing along with some other shots from the festivities.



Here's Kay announcing the winning ticket number for the FT DX 1200.



Our Contest Manager, Dick, W3OA, presented prizes for the ARRL DX Contest.



...and here's Wayne and his wife Cathy, seeming pretty happy about the results. Note that the box behind Wayne holds the radio. Cathy says she told Wayne when they sat there that Wayne was going to win!



Roger seems happy about whatever Hal is telling him.



Wayne being "formally" presented with his new radio by Lou, N2TU, who was standing in for Dennis, K7BV, who missed the Banquet because he had to work.



The line for all that good food starts as soon as the wait-staff gets things uncovered.

In summary, a good time was had by all. Let's do it again net year!



DX King News

Dick Williams, W3OA



Item 1: Full details of our DX King Contest and your chances to win a tablet computer are on page 11 of the [January Pileup](#).

Item 2: Here are the first reports for the 2013 DX King competition. These are the scores I have as of February 28:

Call	Category	Countries	Zones	Total
K5EK	Unlimited	230	40	270
WA4DT	Unlimited	206	40	246
K7BV	Unlimited	185	37	222
K8YC	Unlimited	168	35	203
W3ZL	Formula	164	33	197
W4HG	Unlimited	159	37	196
W3OA	Unlimited	147	35	182
KZ2I	Unlimited	131	37	168
W3GQ	Unlimited	130	33	163
AA4SC	Unlimited	101	40	141
NK0S	Unlimited	100	30	130
WA4DT	Unlimited	92	30	122
K2SX	Unlimited	83	33	116
W4WNT	Formula	88	23	111
W4CWA	Unlimited	84	27	111

Item 3: Don't forget to send me (w3oa@roadrunner.com) your DX marathon scores as of the last day of each month after your score reaches 100.

New Members

Carol Dixon, KA4WUR, 1606 Crescent Ridge, Fort Mill, SC. Now officially a CDXA member.

KB6DI, Robert Smith, 5001 Quail Ridge Dr., Mint Hill, NC 28227, 980-237 1511, indy21@carolina.rr.com.

Welcome to CDXA ya'll!

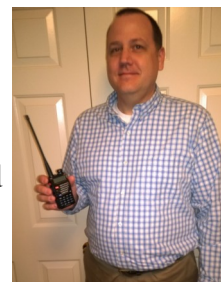
Meet Ryan Trotter -- KF5ZTN

Anytime someone passes the Technician exam, and adds a new member to the Ham Radio world, it's cause for celebration. If the new ham is a sightless, developmentally delayed 27 year old, who studied for 16 months to pass his test, it's really cause for celebration. Such is the case with Ryan Trotter, of Alexandria, LA, now KF5ZTN.

A little background: Ryan is a student at the **Louisiana Special Education Center**, a residential state facility under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. The Center is a special school for orthopedic and multi-challenged students ages 3 through 32 years of age.

Shelley Pendleton, AE4HD, has been providing long distance help to the school on a regular basis for over 17 years, working with the school's Communications Director, Darrell Nichols, AA5OC. Shelley says that Darrell does a wonderful job with his students, in spite of the fact that he has been legally blind since the age of 5. It was Darrell who worked those 16 months with Ryan to get him through his Technician exam, which he passed on the first try. Now they're working on General.

Shelley and Darrell wanted Ryan to have some sort of rig of his own. Coincidentally, Bill Fisher, W4GRW, had heard Jim Payne, W4JBP, say that his son, also Jim, N4JBP, had an HT that he wanted to donate. Thanks to that serendipitous contact, Ryan will soon have a new



HT, preprogrammed with all the local repeaters in his area. The picture is N4JBP with the HT. If you'd like to see and hear more about Ryan, have a look at this [video](#) taken from a TV interview program in his area.

Thanks to all who have helped make Ryan's dream come true, and Congratulations to Ryan.

2014 ARRL DX Contest Wrap Up

The 2014 edition of the ARRL International DX Contest is over, the logs are in, and the CDXA prizes have been awarded. Here are the results, based on claimed scores. The final scores will appear in QST this fall.

CDXA's total score was up quite a bit from last year – 33.6 million points this year vs. 27.1 million last year. Our score in the CW portion was practically the same both years at 14.4 million points. In the SSB portion we went from 12.7 million last year to 19.3 million this year. In 2013, we placed fourth in the Medium Club competition. So I'm optimistic we will place high again when QST publishes the results of the 2013 Club competition.

Everyone who operates in either contest should submit their log to the ARRL to contribute to our Club score. ARRL will send you an email confirming receipt. If you didn't get the email, you need to resubmit. Full details on how to do this are in the contest rules at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>. Remember to show "Carolina DX Association" as your Club.

The deadline for submitting logs to the ARRL is March 18th for CW and April 1st for SSB.

CDXA members competed among themselves for first place prizes in five categories. Each received their choice of a \$50 Outback Steak House Gift card or a trophy plus a CDXA certificate. The winners were:

Top Combined Score: K7BV, Dennis, 4,521,180 points. Top CW Score: K5EK, Ed, 2,262,768 points.

Top Phone Score: N4ZC, Roger, 3,254,139 points. Top CW, Low Power, Score: AA4R, Bill, 813,174 points

Top Phone, Low Power, Score: W3ZL, Cliff, 286,935 points.

Members who completed 1000 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received their choice of a \$25 Outback Steak House Gift card plus a CDXA certificate or a trophy. The winners in this category:

KU4V, Wayne; KZ2I, Steve; K8YC, John; N4PQX, Bob; W3GQ, Paul; W3OA, Dick; W7DO, Gary; WWCP, Chris.

Members who completed 500 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a CDXA certificate and a chance in the raffle for \$25 Outback Steak House Gift. There were ten winners in this category:

AA4V, Steve; AD4IE, Paul; AG4C, Duane; K2SD, Scott; K2SX, Dennis; K4CEB, Eric; K4DXA, Ken; NV4A, John; W4LM, Carl; WW4DD, Bill.

Members who completed 250 or more QSOs combined, CW and phone, received a chance in the raffle for \$25 Outback Steak House Gift. There were three winners in this category:

K4FAN, Eric; W6RM, Barry; W4WNT, Bill

K4FAN won the raffle for \$25 Outback Steak House Gift.

Here are some soapbox comments (edited) from the CW contest:

K2SD: Condx were really good.

K2SX: Did pretty well in ARRL DX CW as part of the NY4A M/2 effort. We had about 6500 QSOs and 11 M points. Unfortunately, you can't split scores in ARRL DX so I guess all the score goes to PVRC-NC. Sorry about that. Given the condx, I probably could have done pretty well from home but not up to that level.

K4FAN: I really enjoyed the activity, especially on 15 and 10m.

(Continued from page 6)

K7BV: Fun contest in spite of some strange conditions from the CME activity! It seemed like the DX entity pickings were slimmer than last year, though. Hope all had a great time. Now I am going to see if Lieska still lives here....

K8YC: I'll be interested in how this scores out at the end. I didn't spend too much time "thinking" what I heard in CW. Just tried to hear the message in my head. I felt pretty good about it--now I must await the truth!

KZ2I: I'm not much of a cw contester and didn't put full effort in, but had fun working Asia into the wee morning hours. High bands sounded so good, barely got down to 40 and 80.

N4PQX: Limited time, S&P only, conditions seemed up and down along with aurora occasionally. Antennas seemed to perform well since returned to service thanks to K4ZA and KI4TZ.

NV4A: Didn't get much operating time. I didn't even work all the "red" stations, much less start working on the "blues". ...At least almost every contact was a multiplier. Prop seemed good though, with lots of Asia/far east. Even did pretty well on 20 and 40 with the dipole.

W4WNT: Operated from Weddington. Squirrely propagation and less time in the chair contributed to a lower score than last year!

Here are some soapbox comments (edited) from the SSB contest:

AA4R: 10 m was the band for me.....with my vertical dipole. For that matter, all 3 of my vertical dipoles did well. Don't have to worry about the rotor working!!

AG4C: Had a lot of fun, but tired of listening to Charlie Brown's school teacher!!!

K4DXA: Finally all my stuff worked. New neighbor helped me replace rotor and put a Caribbean antenna on trailer tower that W4GRW loaned me and it was a savior for Caribbean! Personal best for K4DXA. Butt in chair was not fun! Back and ears hurt!!

K5EK: 10 Meters was better than in any recent contest. 20 Meters was in strange shape on Saturday. It seems like the DX cops have moved into contesting and now find it necessary to help with reports - no ethics at all.

K6RM: Just a few hours and a few points for the club. 10M opening was awesome!

K8YC: A couple of things were worthy of note. For the first time ever, I noted a number of contest stations that closed the QSO by using my NAME! I'm sure they didn't look up all the first names of all the testers in the MASTER.DTA list and record them somewhere, so I suspect that one of the popular contest programs besides N1MM must allow you to link to QRZ.COM. It was a neat "personal touch" by whoever dreamed this capability up for contesting. I have only used my new Spiderbeam in two contests, so am not sure what to expect in the long term. Maybe it was just a great weekend for propagation, but it seemed to me that there was a pipeline to many countries on South America. I worked a LOT of Argentinians, Chileans, and Brazilians to add QSOs to my log. Of course, I worked a lot of European countries, too. Maybe the smaller geographical area of the European countries obscures the fact that you don't seem to be working any one country as often. Finally, late Sunday afternoon, I found that Japan seemed to have a pipeline to North Carolina. With vertical antennas in the past, I've seldom heard Japan at all in contests, but in the last 90 minutes of the contest I managed to put 32 contacts with Japan in the log, and while at it added several contacts with Alaska, Asiatic Russia, Indonesia, and Wallis Island. All in all, a satisfying contest outing.

KU4V: Here is my score - even with 6 hours off 12pm - 6 pm Saturday. I had an AMAZING run on 10m Saturday AM, with pile ups as big as Peter-I - almost- but could not find room to squeeze in Sunday anywhere on any band without being next to alligators or on top of someone I could not hear! EU had to tell me!

KZ2I: Had fun on Saturday morning on 10 meters. Had 2 hours of 150 an hour, with peak of 180. And that was on 28.977! Never heard the band so full before.

N4PQX: All S&P and very sporadic operating, very little chair time and 10m seemed good most of the time. Had some computer issues, so must be time for a new PC for the shack.

N4ZC: I really didn't plan to do a full effort but it's hard for me to do anything half way. It was another 39 hour effort, and I'm dead.

WW4CP: I had some problems with the computer for a few hours that kept me off the air. After I got it working again it was fun.

The Back Page

- The Hamfest weekend was lots of fun, with some great forums, and a very successful CDXA Banquet.
- Wayne Helms, N4HWH, won the raffle for the FT DX 1200. It was quite a coincidence that his first contact with his new rig was with ARRL prez Kay Craigie, K3KN, who had drawn his winning raffle ticket from the bowl.
- The DX King competition is heating up early, with both K5EK and WA4DT already over 200 countries and all 40 zones worked.
- Be sure to read the article about Ryan Trotter, KF5ZTN, and the support Ryan has had in getting his Technician license and getting on the air. It's a very special story.
- Our Contest Manager, Dick, W3OA, provides us a summary of CDXA results from the recent ARRL DX Contest. We had 33.6 million (unconfirmed) points this year, compared with 27.1 million last year.
- "This just in" (too late to fit into the Hamfest article): There are videos on-line of [the K9W presentation](#) and the [FT5ZM presentation](#), compliments of Gary Pearce, KN4AQ. Just click the links.
- One last thing: Cliff, W3ZL, got a note from Eric, KJ4DLJ, from their new QTH in the "Old West." Eric says he, Cameron and Beverly are doing well. He says the biggest problems are finding a good school for Cameron, and figuring out where to put his tower(s) and antennas on their 3 1/2 acres.

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

jcw53@cornell.edu

First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.